

passes. LB 722.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have motions on the desk. Mr. President, the first motion I have on the bill is offered by Senator Smith. Senator Smith would move to return the bill for a specific amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, this is the chance that I wish we could have had about a week or two, week and a half ago. This is for a 2 percent across the board cut in all departments and agencies. I think that since that time I don't have the support for the amendment. I have talked to some people. It is not there. This is the way I wanted to go originally. I want that to go on record and I am really sorry that we couldn't have had this opportunity sometime back to vote because I think we might have had this and had been without all the grief that we are all facing right now. So I am going to withdraw that amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, thank you. What is next, Mr. Clerk, anything?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem and Morehead would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. (See pages 2674-75 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, did you wish to present that?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, we will share our opening remarks on this, try not to take a lot of time. We are serious about this amendment. This is the amendment that we thought might bring about a consensus budget, one in which a majority of us could go home feeling good that we had, number one, not raised taxes and, number two, we had done some very serious major cuts in the budget eliminating some programs and some funding that was not necessary but we did show a little bit of compassion to some programs that helped people. Unfortunately, yesterday the body chose to adjourn before this motion could be considered. I recognize that it complicates some things to ask you to amend the bill today. I am sure, however, though that it can be done. It can be amended and we can with recognizing that a budget bill does have to be passed, we can stay one extra day and pass the bill in Final Reading